REMARKS

Reconsideration of the subject application as amended herein is respectfully requested.

The claims have been amended to correct typographical errors noted by the Examiner.

Briefly, the present invention pertains to system or apparatus associated with a personal video recorder (PVRs). As discussed in the specification, PVRs can generate analog programs to be displayed on a standard TV set. Moreover, some PVRs can be set up and configured to generate a wireless control signal, such as a an IR control signal (through an IR blaster) that can be used to control a standard analog video recorder (VCR). The PVR can also be connected to the VCR by standard cables. When VCR detects the wireless control signal, it starts receiving the analog program from the PVR.

The present invention pertains to a method and apparatus in which a separate digitizer is connected to the PVR with a standard connector, instead of the VCR. Moreover, the digitizer also intercepts the wireless control signal from the PVR. Therefore when the PVR requests the VCR to record an analog program, instead of going directly to the VCR, the analog program is received by the digitizer. The digitizer then generates a corresponding digital program which is then processed by a storage /distribution device. The storage/distributing device then either stores the program in a digital format or sends it on to other devices, a public network or other means. In one embodiment, the digitizer is also connected to the VCR so that the analog program can be channeled to the VCR as well.

As it was made clear in the above description, one important feature of the present invention is that the control signals from the PVR are used in this instance to perform two functions: to control the operation of a VCR and to control the operation of the separate digitizer. Moreover, the digitizer is configured so that it automatically reacts to the control signals from the PVR. This has a number of different advantages. First, normally, in a situation where a program is recorded and/or played by two different devices, one would expect to have to use two different controllers, in this case, one for the VCR and one for the PVR. In the present invention a single controller is used—clearly a desirable feature. Second, the using two controllers to record the same program is very tricky since both devices should be initiated and preferably terminated at the same time. In the present invention, a single controller is used which generates signals used by both devices. Third, the present device is configured so that it is transparent to the PVR and the VCR. Therefore the operation of neither of these latter devices is changed from their standard operation.

The Examiner is reminded that she cannot ignore the specific claim language. For example, claim 47 is typical of all the claims and it recites the following method:

In a system including a digital device receiving a program in a digital format, said digital device selectively generating an analog output signal including said program in an analog format and a command signal, said command signal being a wireless signal intended to control an analog device separate from the digital device to cause said analog device to receive and process said analog output, said system further including a digitizer system, a method comprising:

intercepting said command by said digitizer;

in response to said intercepted command, receiving said analog output signal including said program in said analog format;

converting said program in said analog format into a program in a digital format; and

presenting said program in a digital format to a storage/distribution device.

Clearly this claim describes a method requiring three elements: a digital device generating a command signal and an analog output, an analog device responsive to the command signal and recording said analog device and a digitizer also receiving said command signal and in response converting signals on said analog signals into a digital format.

The other claims either describe a similar method or an apparatus with these three elements.

In the latest office action the examiner has rejected the claims as being obvious over Lang in view of the admitted prior art and Salmonsen. The applicant respectfully traverses these rejections. Land discloses a VCR that has been redesign to perform selectively analog or digital conversions of a program. However, Lang fails to disclose a system in which a PVR sends out an analog program together with a wireless control signal to another unit so that the other unit can play or record the program and wherein a special system is provided that intercepts the control signal and digitizes the program for storage or distribution. Land discloses two distinct embodiments and the examiner has failed to recognized that these two embodiments are different and have to be treated differently. In the embodiment of Fig. 3, Land discloses a modified VCR that includes a single unit a standard VCR, a memory 13 and means for converting analog signals into digital ones, and vice versa. The whole purpose of the present invention is to avoid such a configuration and allow a user to maintain his VCR and augment it with the digitizer without touching the VCR.

The second embodiment shown in Fig. 3 discloses a device with an AVRU 11 and a separate unit 60 that performs the digital recording. There is absolutely no discussion in Lang as to how is this second unit 60 being controlled. Obviously it could be controlled manually or by providing a second controller.

The examiner relies on the passage in Land at col. 3 lines 58-59 for the proposition that the AVRU 11 controls the operation of the digital storage section. However, that is incorrect. All that can be found in the designated portion is the AVRU 11 "has all the functions of the typical VCR including record, play, rewind, slow motion, fast forward and single frame hold." It must be emphasized that this section pertains to the first embodiment of Fig. 2. We do not know how the second unit 60 in the second embodiment works.

The examiner relies on Salmonsen for teaching an emulator that controls various devices including a source and sink and bypass their standard controls. That is immaterial here. There is no emulation involved in the present invention to control anything. All that is happening is that the digitizer intercepts and reacts to the same signals that are being sent to the standard VCR.

Importantly, as discussed above.the claims describe the present invention as having two important features. First, the invention includes three elements or a method requiring elements: the digital device, the analog device and the digitizer. The second

Feature is the generation by the digital device of a command which is then received and acted on by BOTH the analog device and the digitizer to manipulate the same analog signal from the digital device. The Examiner keeps on Lang as the primary reference however has only two elements which correspond very loosely to the analog device and the digitizer. However, as discussed above, most can be said about these elements is that the analog device controls the digitizer. The admitted prior art includes a digital device and an analog device. The digital device controls the analog device. However, these two references cannot be combined to obtain the present invention because nowhere do any of the references teach that a command signal is generated by the digital device and that this same analog command signal is acted on by both the analog device and the digitizer. It is possible that a person skilled in the art could combine the two references to make a new system with a digital device, an analog device and a digitizer. However, in this system, the digitizer would be controlled by the analog device and NOT by the digital device.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has failed to make out a prima facia case of obviousness and therefore it is respectfully requested that the application be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,
Gottlieb, Rackman & Reisman, P.C.

/Tiberiu Weisz/
Tiberiu Weisz
Attorney for applicants
Reg. No. 29,876

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